

July 2013



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#### **Kittitas County FSA**

607 E. Mountain View Ave.  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

**Phone:** (509) 925-8585 ext. 2

**Fax:** (509) 925-8591

#### **Kittitas Co. Office Hours:**

Wed. & Thurs. 9:00a.m. -  
3:30p.m.

#### **Yakima County FSA**

1606 Perry Street, Suite A  
Yakima, WA 98902

**Phone:** (509) 454-5746 ext. 2

**Fax:** (509) 454-5682

#### **County Committee**

John Dyk, Chair  
Rick Haberman, Vice-Chair  
Brent DeKoning, Member  
Cristi Eaton, Advisor

#### **Office Staff**

Nathan D. Boguslawski, CED  
Maria De La Mora, PT  
Jennifer DeWeese, PT  
Kimberly Miller, PT

#### **Farm Loan Staff**

Lisa Ruff, FLM  
Scott Smith, FLO  
Crispin Garza, SCL  
Sandy Christensen, FLPT

#### **Next COC Meeting**

August 15, 2013 – 9:00a.m.

#### **Dates to Remember**

**July 15** – NAP Production

Reporting Requirement

**August 2** – Acreage Reporting  
Deadline

**August 2** – DCP Sign-up  
Deadline

## **Farm Service Agency Seeks Nominees**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is looking for candidates for the upcoming grower-elected county committee election. FSA is accepting nominations through **August 1, 2013.**

FSA county committees make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices, and conditions to program implementation. Also, producers can appeal most agency determinations to the local county committee.

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs, you may be considered eligible under the cooperation criteria if you have farm records on file with FSA.

The Kittitas County Committee (COC) draws its members from local administrative areas. Nominated by local farmers and ranchers, candidates must live in the local administrative area that they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats are up for re-election each year.

This year's election takes place in LAA #3. This area is known as the Upper County / Westside area. It encompasses west side of Ellensburg, Thorp, Cle Elum, Roslyn, Ronald, and Easton to the King County Border. A map of FSA county committee election areas can be found on the agency's website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings.

Elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2014. FSA will mail ballots to all eligible voters. Anyone not receiving a ballot by Nov. 4 can contact the office to request one.

Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from the FSA office. Nomination forms may also be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

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## Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Signup Continues

The sign-up period for DCP is still open. To be eligible for the 2013 program, all producers that received greater than a zero share of a DCP contract must sign the contract no later than **August 2, 2013**. Any contracts missing signatures after the August 2, 2013 deadline will be considered withdrawn and no benefits will be issued for that farm. Contact the Kittitas County Office to verify that all of the contract signatures have been obtained or to schedule an appointment to sign your farm up.

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## Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended

Farmers and landowners have an additional eighteen calendar days to submit their annual report of acreage to the Kittitas County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office with the deadline extended to **August 2, 2013**. Only the FSA reporting deadline has been extended. The acreage reporting requirement for crop insurance has not changed and remains July 15.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistant Program (NAP).

Acreage reports for FSA are considered timely this year when filed at the county office by the new applicable final crop reporting deadline of August 2, 2013. Producers should contact their local FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

While FSA is able to extend its deadline, RMA's acreage reporting date remains July 15, 2013, for most spring-planted crops in the country. Farmers are reminded to contact their insurance agent if they have any questions about coverage, prevented planting, or for reporting and processing a claim.

Producers should contact the Kittitas County FSA Office to make an appointment to complete acreage reporting before the August 2, 2013, deadline.

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## Reporting 2013 Crop Losses

Prompt weather-related disaster reporting is crucial for FSA to determine the need for disaster declarations. If you experienced crop damage or other agriculture losses due to recent weather events, contact the FSA office and your crop insurance agent. Disaster declarations trigger availability of emergency loans and, in some instances, additional disaster assistance programs.

Damage reports aren't just limited to crops. They can include damage to structures, eroded farmland or livestock mortality. Helpful documentation includes the specific location of farm damage, date and time of the disaster event, the type of damage (hail, wind, etc), what was affected, and the estimated percent of loss. Photographic evidence of significant damage will also be helpful as both FSA and insurance agents use them in support of future program applications and cumulative damage reports.

Disaster designation triggers availability of low-interest Emergency loans. Timely reporting to FSA and your insurance agent is also important for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) or crop insurance payments. Emergency loans may be used to replace essential property or pay production costs associated with the disaster year. They may also be used to pay essential living expenses, reorganize a farming operation, or refinance certain debts.

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## Conservation Reserve Program Signup is Complete

General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup ended on June 14, 2013. The offers have been submitted to the National Office for final scoring and ranking. If you submitted an offer during the sign-up period, you will be contacted once we receive the list of accepted offers, and we will let you know whether your offer was accepted or not. We do not know how long the ranking process will take, so your patience is greatly appreciated.

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## Disaster Debt Set-Aside Program

When Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct loan borrowers are located in a designated disaster area or contiguous county and are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt, FSA is authorized to consider set-aside of some payments to allow the operation to continue.

Borrowers have eight months from the date of designation to apply for the program. A complete application includes a written request from all liable parties, actual production, income and expense records for the period in which disaster occurred, and other items as required. Production, income, and expense records are not required in instances where the agency already has the information.

Borrowers are eligible to receive the disaster set-aside based on the following:

- The borrower is unable to pay all family living and farm operating expenses, payments to other creditors, and payments to FSA
- The borrower must have operated the farm or ranch at the time of the disaster.
- Each loan considered for disaster set-aside must have been outstanding at the time of the disaster.
- The borrower must be current or not more than one installment behind on any FSA loan.
- The loan considered for disaster set-aside must have at least a term of two years remaining on the payments.
- After the disaster set-aside is completed, the borrower must be current with FSA payments.
- The amount set aside cannot exceed one year's FSA payment.
- Each loan can only receive one disaster set-aside.
- The borrower must be able to develop a positive cash-flow projection for the coming year.

Each payment set-aside must be repaid prior to the final maturity of the note. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid.

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## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Closing Dates

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) closing dates for the 2014 crop year are as follows:

**5/1/2013** – Ornamental nursery

**8/31/2013** – Artichokes, aquaculture, beets (for stecklings), cabbage (for seed or fresh), canola, carrots (for seed, fresh, or processing), cauliflower (for seed or fresh), Christmas trees, floriculture, mushrooms, onions (for seed, fresh, or processing), rapeseed, rutabaga (for seed or fresh), turf grass sod, turnips (for seed and fresh), and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

**9/30/2013** – Garlic, mint, perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage, forage seed crops, and, wheat.

**11/20/2013** – Perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category; asparagus, berries, grapes, honey, hops, tree fruits, and nuts.

**3/15/2014** – Beets (for seed or fresh), buckwheat, camelina, mustard, radish (for seed or fresh), small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats, peas), and any other spring planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

NAP coverage should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the application closing date.

NAP coverage cannot be offered on any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is available in the county. If you have any questions regarding NAP availability or NAP application closing dates, please contact the Kittitas County FSA Office for more information.

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